

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

April 29, 1988

JOE PALMISANO, JR.
Chairman

New Orleans, Louisiana

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION New Orleans, Louisiana April 29, 1988

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

April 29, 1988

Chairman Joe Palmisano presiding:

Thursday, April 28, 1988 - 2:00 PM

Jack Cappel
Don Hines
James Jenkins
Warren Pol
Nicholas Trist
Dale Vinet

Friday, April 29, 1988 - 10:00 AM

Jack Cappel
Don Hines
James Jenkins
Warren Pol
Nicholas Trist
Dale Vinet

Ms. Virginia Van Sickle was also present.

The minutes of the regular montly meeting of March 4, 1988 were approved with a motion from Dr. Cappel, seconded by Mr. Vinet and approved unanimously.

A special budget meeting was held on April 5 with Mr. Jenkins as Chairman, Mr. Vinet, Dr. Cappel and Dr. Hines. Mr. Jenkins gave a brief report of this meeting. Minutes are attached.

Mr. Pol presented a resolution to set the inshore shrimp season for 1988. After some discussion, Mr. Pol made a motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Dr. Hines and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open shrimp seasons each year and,

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states that one of the shrimp seasons must commence no later than May 25 and,

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:967 states that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may employ the provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) when setting the shrimp season thereby allowing the most recent technical data be considered in determining the opening and closing dates,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Emergency Declaration does:

1. Hereby set the 1988 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open in Shrimp Management Zone 1 (from South Pass of the Mississippi River to the Louisiana-Mississippi State Line) at 6:00 AM on May 16, 1988.
2. Hereby set the 1988 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open in Shrimp Management Zone 2 (from South Pass of the Mississippi River to the Western Shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island) at 6:00 AM on May 16, 1988.
3. Hereby set the 1988 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season to open in Shrimp Management Zone 3 (from the Western Shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana-Texas State Line) at 6:00 AM on May 16, 1988.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize and empower the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 1988 Inshore Shrimp Season in any area where the season needs to be closed to protect forthcoming white shrimp crop as defined in R.S. 56:497.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall give a minimum of 72 hours notice prior to the closing of the 1988 Spring Shrimp Season or the opening of any special season.

Mr. Jenkins read a resolution which was in the form of a motion for the speckled trout quota, seconded by Mr. Pol and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:325.3 established a quota for the commercial harvest of spotted sea trout in Louisiana waters at 1 million, and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1987 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for spotted sea trout to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, this Commission is authorized to close finfish seasons using the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of spotted sea trout taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure is prohibited, now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after the closure all spotted sea trout taken as incidental catch must be returned to the water with a minimum of harm or stress to the fish. Fishermen are hereby urged to fish in such a manner so as to minimize the likelihood of taking spotted sea trout as incidental catch to other fishing activities.

THEREFORE, I move that the Commission authorize and direct the Secretary to close the commercial fishery on Spotted Sea Trout, as required by the state legislature, on the date that the National Marine Fisheries landings data from 1985 through 1988 can project that the quota will be met. The contemplated closing data will be calculated and available to the Secretary no later than May 4, 1988.

Dr. Hines offered a resolution in the form of a motion, seconded by Mr. Trist which passed unanimously to extend the commercial closure of red drum through August 31, 1988.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:325.4 established an annual quota for the commercial harvest of red drum in Louisiana waters at 1.7 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, at the September 3, 1987 Commission meeting the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for red drum to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:325.4 mandates a closure of commercial fishery upon the quota having been reached, and

WHEREAS, on or about January 15, 1988 the quota of red drum was reached. Effective that date this Commission closed the commercial harvest of red drum, and

WHEREAS, unforeseen delays in the rulemaking process now necessitate the adoption of a further emergency closure in order to accomplish the mandates of R.S. 56:325.4 and the intent of the Commission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission, by emergency declaration pursuant to R.S. 49:967, hereby declares the red drum commercial fishery closed until midnight, August 31, 1988, effective at midnight May 14, 1988.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of red drum taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure is prohibited.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all commercial dealers possessing red drum taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R.S. 56:306.4. Said closure shall remain in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.

Hugh Bateman presented a Notice of Intent for the Resident Game Hunting Seasons for 1988-89. Mr. Vinet made a motion to proceed with the Notice of Intent, seconded by Mr. Pol which passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et. seq.) the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has developed proposed open seasons, rules and regulations for hunting resident game quadrupeds and birds during the period October 1, 1988 to April 30, 1989. This act is exempt from the legislative oversight and action was taken at a public hearing on April 29, 1988 at University Center, LSU, New Orleans, Louisiana. A subsequent hearing will be held in July of 1988 to ratify this proposal. Authority to establish these rules is vested in the Commission by Section 115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the authority to close seasons or alter any rule or regulation in emergency situations to protect the wildlife resources of the state.

In general these proposals include dates for open hunting seasons and bag limits for all resident game quadrupeds and birds provided for by law. Also proposed are regulations establishing legal methods of taking game species as well as special open hunting seasons for the Department controlled wildlife management areas and Federal Refuges controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A summary of the 1988-89 hunting seasons and bag limits for resident game species is attached. (A more detailed copy of the proposed rules and regulations will be available upon request at the address listed below).

Mike Olinde presented a resolution to ratify rule change pertaining to field trials on wildlife management areas. Dr. Cappel made a motion to ratify this rule, seconded by Mr. Pol and was unanimously approved.

(The full text of the resolution is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the LDWF recognizes bird dog field trials as a legitimate public use of wildlife management areas, and

WHEREAS, the LDWF has always taken the lead in the development of sound wildlife management practices on its lands, and

WHEREAS, no negative responses were received following publication of the Notice of Intent concerning the suggested changes to the Administrative Code entitled "Field Trials on Wildlife Management Areas", which were published in the December Louisiana Register.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission ratify the regulation changes to Louisiana Administrative Code 76:V.103 (Field Trials on Wildlife Management Areas) and the pen-reared bobwhite health certification procedure which were adopted at the 5 November 1987 meeting in Baton Rouge.

Bennie Fontenot presented a Notice of Intent for Toledo Bend and Caddo Lake Reciprocal Agreement. Mr. Vinet made a motion to proceed with the Notice of Intent, seconded by Dr. Hines which passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record)

Pursuant to the authority granted under Louisiana Revised Statute, Title 56, Section 673, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to enter into a reciprocal agreement with the State of Texas to establish uniform creel limits and minimum length limits for black bass and uniform creel limits for crappie on the waters of Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake. The reciprocal agreement shall establish a 12 inch minimum size and a 10 fish daily creel limit for black bass along with a 50 fish daily creel limit for crappie. It is also the intent of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to cooperate with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in a joint research project designed to collect information on the fish population in Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake.

Johnnie Tarver reported on the Marsh Island Alligator Harvest Program (AHP). He stated that in 1921 the State of Louisiana officially accepted Marsh Island as a refuge and with that agreed to a Deed of Donation severely restricting use. The original deed has been amended several times over the years. In the 1940's, an amendment was jointly agreed to by the LDWF and Russell Sage Foundation to permit orderly exploration and development of mineral resources on the Island in an environmentally sound manner. In 1973, the Deed was again amended to allow for a trust fund to be set up at \$5 million. That trust was subsequently filled and in 1987 through Act 849, Title 56:798 was again amended to set a \$10 million trust fund. In January 1988, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Foundation and the State of Louisiana to

accompany the statute. Those changes in the Memorandum of Understanding and the Act mainly dealt with changes in accounting procedures. The Foundation is very active in all activities on the Island.

To comply with other stipulations, we were asked to make public certain activities on the Island. There has been an on-going research program that deals with the alligator harvest program. The Commission members received the 1987 results of this program and the 1988 proposal. The Russell Sage Foundation remains very active in programs on the Refuge. Noel Kinler reviewed the data from 1987 and the 1988 proposal.

Chairman Palmisano then requested comments from the 200 plus attendees at the April 29, 1988 Commission meeting. No comments were offered.

Phil Bowman presented a resolution to ratify the establishment of a new seed ground in outside waters south of Atchafalaya Bay. Mr. Vinet made a motion to approve this ratification, seconded by Mr. Trist which was approved unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a Notice of Intent to designate an area in the state's territorial waters south of the Atchafalaya, Vermilion Bay complex, as a public oyster seed area subsequent to R.S. 56:434, and

WHEREAS, the Notice of Intent and Rule have completed the procedure described in the Administrative Procedure Act,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the Rule designating the below described area as the OUTSIDE AREA ATCHAFALAYA-VERMILION BAY OYSTER SEED GROUND

Description

Beginning at a point known as South Point on the Southeast portion of Marsh Island (y-298,750.40) x-1, 863,189.50) thence S74°10' 18" E S2785.6 feet to a platform (y-284,352.82) (x-1, 913, 974.65), thence S 68° 18' 41" E 75, 154.9 feet to Eugene Island (y-256, 578.31) x-1, 983, 808.02), thence S 35° 17' 41" E 17,453.6 feet to Point Au Fer (y-242, 332.84) (x-1,993,892.44), thence south 35° 00' W approximately 3 miles to the Louisiana State Territorial Limitation, thence westerly along the State Territorial Limitation to a point south of Marsh Island, thence north approximately 3 miles to a point on Marsh Island (y-295, 200.0) (x-1, 845, 950.0) thence easterly along the Shoreline of Marsh Island to South Point being the point of beginning.

Don Puckett submitted a resolution for public bid opening for shelldredging. Dr. Hines made a motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Mr. Jenkins and was passed unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has declared the present shell dredging leases invalid for failure to comply with public bid requirements, and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to issue new leases in accordance with the Court's ruling, at the earliest feasible time, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission hereby authorizes and directs the Secretary to prepare proposed leases, develop economic standards for minimum bidg terms and advertise for public bids for shell dredging, now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary is further authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary, to utilize the staff and technical expertise of the Department of Natural Resources, and to keep the Commission advised of the status of this process. The Secretary is directed to submit all bids to this Commission for its deliberation and issuance of final leases

The May meeting was set for Tuesday, May 17, 1988 at 10:00AM in Baton Rouge with a motion from Mr. Vinet, seconded by Mr. Pol and was unanimous.

The Oyster Survey Report was given for the period of February 29th through April 1st at Thursday's meeting. During this period field activity consisted of 136 surveys were scheduled, 68 surveys were unable to be done due to bad weather of fishermen unable to meet survey. Lease rental collected was \$34,156.04, survey fees collected were \$1,721.75, 13 applications were filed, 16 new leases were issued and 10 surveys were conducted by a private surveyor.

The Oyster Survey Report was also given for the period of April 2nd through April 24th at Thursday's meeting. During this period field activity consisted of 82 surveys were scheduled, 29 surveys were unable to be done due to bad weather of fishermen unable to meet surveyor. Lease rental collected was \$9,285.65, survey fees collected were \$951.50, no applications were filed, 12 new leases were issued and 12 surveys were conducted by a private surveyor for a total of 32 for 1988.

Law Enforcement Report, State of the Region Reports from Region IV, V and VI and a plan for the Enforcement Division were presented and discussed at the Thursday's meeting.

Additional shrimp season enforcement and closure of
Plaquemines Parish oyster beds were also discussed at Thursday's
meeting.

Friday's meeting was adjourned after the date of the May
meeting was set.

BUDGET COMMITTEE
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

April 5, 1988

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: LDWF Office, Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La.

Committee Present:

James Jenkins, Chairman
Jack Cappel
Don Hines
Dale Vinet

Others Present:

Mary Mitchell, LDWF
Bettsie Baker- LDWF
Virginia Van Sickle- LDWF

The Budget Committee is a newly formed committee of the Commission. Mr. Jenkins stated that since this was the initial meeting, the committee was open for ideas and interested to learn the budget process. A discussion about the enforcement problems and the Department's need to use people, resources and money in areas where needed took place and statements relative to Resources being allocated to solve problems were made by the Committee members. Fifteen agents positions have been requested by the Department for the coastal zone. A suggestion was made to video the boats fishing illegally by airplane and Mr. Jenkins remarked that he had offered his helicopter for enforcement patrol.

Mary Mitchell explained the budget process in detail. She stated that the first meeting for the budget is in September and special forms are due October 1. Revenue projections are worked on and since the budget is computerized each division receives a diskette of their previous budget for changes. Recap of budget is due at the Budget office December 5. It is reviewed in January and then the Department goes before the Joint Legislative Committee in February.

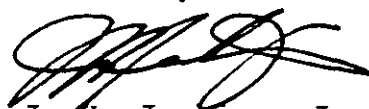
The budget was stable in 1988-89. The Legislature created a Revenue Forecasting Committee consisting of the Commissioner of Administration, member of Legislature, Professor from LSU and several others. The budget for last year was 33 million dollars. A new system has been started regarding selling licenses in other offices besides New Orleans and Baton Rouge. A person can pay for the license and walk out with it. This is also being done in the Bourg and New Iberia offices. The office in Lake Charles will also be doing this in the near future.

This task could eventually be taken away from the sheriff offices. A suggestion was made that a penalty should be placed on the sheriff when they do not pay what they owe us within a timely period. The Conversation Fund will be protected after July 1 because of Amendment 2. An enforcement citation and penalty is being suggested and "wildlife value" may be added to the penalty. Fees for citations in different parishes are different and a suggestion was made that there should be a uniform fee system in all parishes.

A breakdown of the budget was given. Categories were taxes, 2.4 million; oil and gas, 6.5 million; timber, \$50,000; interest, \$77,000; commercial license, 4.1 million, sports (survey and seismic), 14.2 million; books, \$52,000; surplus property \$81,000; cookbook, \$25,000; donations, \$10,000; fur deposits \$18,000 and Miscellaneous, \$140,000. Six million dollars is received in federal funds. Miscellaneous includes fur protection fund, seafood marketing board, Help our Wildlife, Marsh Island, Rockefeller, Interagency contracts, and LOOP.

In recent years, the Secretary of the Department has been making the decision on how much each division, other than Fur and Refuge will be budgeted, after receiving proposed budget requests from the different divisions.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the Commission would like to lend some direction to the budget process in the future. Mary Mitchell explained that the budget is predicated on revenue projections and money can be moved from one budget unit to the other. The Department's insurance of three million dollars is paid by prorated premium. The meeting ended with a detailed explanation of how the Conservation Fund is set up.



J. H. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman, Budget Committee
LDWF Commission

SUMMARY OF 1988-89
HUNTING SEASON REGULATIONS

Quail: Nov. 24-Feb. 28. Daily bag limit 10, possession 20.
Rabbit: Oct. 1-Feb. 28. Daily bag limit 8, possession 16.
Squirrel: Oct. 1-Jan. 15. Daily bag limit 8, possession 16.

Deer: One per day. 6 per season

Area 1 - 48 days

9 days still hunt only: Nov. 19-27
9 days with or without dogs: Dec. 3-11
30 days with or without dogs: Dec. 17-Jan. 15

Area 2 - 48 days

23 days still hunt only: Nov. 5-27
9 days with or without dogs: Dec. 3-11
16 days with or without dogs: Dec. 17-Jan. 3

Area 3 - 48 days

23 days still hunt only: Nov. 5-27
9 days still hunt only: Dec. 3-11
16 days still hunt only: Dec. 17-Jan. 3

Area 4 - 41 days

9 days still hunt only: Nov. 19-27
9 days still hunt only: Dec. 3-11
23 days still hunt only: Dec. 17-Jan. 8

Turkey: One per day. 3 per season

Area A - 30 days. Mar. 25-Apr. 23

Area B - 37 days. Mar. 11-Apr. 16

Area C - 37 days. Mar. 19-Apr. 23

Area D - 30 days. Apr. 2-30

Area E - 9 days. Apr. 15-23

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
NEW ORLEANS
April 28, 1988

- ✓ 1. Setting of Inshore Shrimp Season
- ✓ 2. Discussion of Speckled Trout Harvest -
- ✓ 3. Consideration of Speckled Trout Quota ←
- ✓ 4. Consideration of Emergency Rule to Extend the Commercial Closure of Red drum through August 31, 1988 Don Puckett - 5 min
- ✓ 5. Notice of Intent Resident Game Hunting Seasons for 1988 89 - Butch
- ✓ 6. Ratify Rule Change Pertaining to Field Trials on WMAs - Mike Olinde - 2 min.
- ✓ 7. Toledo Bend and Caddo Lake Reciprocal Agreement - Bennie Fontenot - 5 min.
- ✓ 8. Discussion of Marsh Island Alligator Harvest Program - Johnnie Tarver - 15 min
- ✓ 9. Law Enforcement Report - Winton Vidrine
- ✓ 10. State of the Region Reports from Region IV V & VI -
11. Plan for Enforcement Division - Kell McInnis
- ✓ 12. Additional Shrimp Season Enforcement - (already covered this morning)
13. Oyster Survey Report - Phil 5 min
14. Seismic Report - Blue Watson - 2 min
15. Ratify the Establishment of a New Seed Ground in Outside Waters South of Atchafalaya Bay - Phil - 5 min
16. Discussion of Shelledredging and Proposed Bid Framework - Don Puckett
17. Discussion of Closure of Plaquemines Parish Oyster Beds - Delte (Don Puckett can explain)
18. Legislative Report - Kell McInnis + Don Puckett
19. OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments

Introduce: Kell McInnis - Deputy Secretary
Bettsie Baker - Undersecretary
Bob Misso - Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife

State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 15570

BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

May 2, 1988

TO: Paula

FROM: Don *[Signature]*

This is to be attached to the minutes of the April 29, 1988 meeting. However, no rule-making is required.

RESOLUTION

SHELL DREDGING

WHEREAS, The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has declared the present shell dredging leases invalid for failure to comply with public bid requirements, and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to issue new leases in accordance with the Court's ruling, at the earliest feasible time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Commission hereby authorizes and directs the Secretary to prepare proposed leases, develop economic standards for minimum bid terms and advertise for public bids for shell dredging.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Secretary is further authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary, to utilize the staff and technical expertise of the Department of Natural Resources, and to keep the Commission advised of the status of this process. The Secretary is directed to submit all bids to this Commission for its deliberation and issuance of final leases.

NOTICE OF INTENT

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et. seq.) the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has developed proposed open seasons, rules and regulations for hunting resident game quadrupeds and birds during the period October 1, 1988 to April 30, 1989. This act is exempt from the legislative oversight and action was taken at a public hearing on April 29, 1988 at University Center, L.S.U. - New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. A subsequent hearing will be held in July of 1988 to ratify this proposal. Authority to establish these rules is vested in the Commission by Section 115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the authority to close seasons or alter any rule or regulation in emergency situations to protect the wildlife resources of the state.

In general these proposals include dates for open hunting seasons and bag limits for all resident game quadrupeds and birds provided for by law. Also proposed are regulations establishing legal methods of taking game species as well as special open hunting seasons for the Department controlled wildlife management areas and Federal Refuges controlled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A summary of the 1988-89 hunting seasons and bag limits for resident game species is attached. (A more detailed copy of the proposed rules and regulations will be available upon request at the address listed below.)

Interested parties may submit their views in writing to Hugh A. Bateman, Administrator, Game Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 15570, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:22 and R.S. 56:317, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares that if the present rate of harvest of red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) be allowed to continue in Louisiana waters, the Standing Stock Biomass per Recruit will be adversely affected.

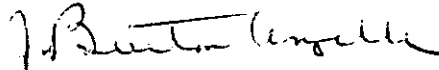
Since 1976, Department biologists have offered recommendations to the Louisiana legislature designed to reduce harvest of this fish from inshore waters. Biological data collected since then in Louisiana and other Gulf states have substantiated those recommendations. Texas prohibited commercial harvest in 1981 and initiated a reduced creel limit and a minimum size on red drum in their waters. Alabama prohibited commercial harvest in approximately 1986, and initiated minimum sizes on red drum while reducing the creel limit. Mississippi decreased creel limits, initiated minimum sizes and adopted a commercial harvest quota of 200,000 pounds per quota year. Florida did likewise, and prohibited retention entirely on January 1, 1988.

These actions by our neighboring states has caused an increase in commercial and recreational fishing effort and a subsequent increase in harvest from Louisiana and offshore waters, further necessitating a reduction in harvest from Louisiana waters.

Economical situations existing in Louisiana since 1985 has added to the problem because of unemployed people seeking jobs in the commercial fishing sector. Recreational harvest has increased, because of more free time being available to this group. Although measures adopted by the 1987 legislature will benefit the resource, no reduction in the creel limit was applied. Measures now in place will increase the rate of escapement, but only to 10-15%, based on estimates derived from available data. Recent meetings of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils' Stock Assessment Group were held in Miami, Florida and included scientists from state and Federal agencies, Universities and other groups. After reviewing all available information, it was the unanimous recommendation of this Group to the Council to prohibit all retention of red drum in the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) until escapement rate of juvenile red drum from state waters reached the 30% level. This rate of escapement is necessary to maintain a viable reproductive biomass, and to maintain equilibrium in the fishery. A recommendation was also made by the Stock Assessment Group to the Council that all Gulf states follow this procedure, by whatever method they chose to adopt.

Because scientific evidence exists and statements have been made documenting the need to increase escapement of juvenile red drum from inshore areas, it is considered necessary to implement an emergency rule to prohibit harvest or possession of red drum in Louisiana waters by recreational fishermen from midnight, February 14, 1988 until midnight, June 1, 1988.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission wishes to protect, enhance and manage this important species and thus establishes this prohibition for all state waters for a period of 107 days to begin at midnight, February 14, 1988.


J. Burton Angelle
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION AT THE REGULAR MEETING HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, FRIDAY APRIL 29, 1988.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF SPOTTED SEA TROUT
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:325.3 established a quota for the commercial harvest of spotted sea trout in Louisiana waters at 1 million, and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1987 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for spotted sea trout to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, this Commission is authorized to close finfish seasons using the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of spotted sea trout taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure is prohibited, now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after the closure all spotted sea trout taken as incidental catch must be returned to the water with a minimum of harm or stress to the fish. Fishermen are hereby urged to fish in such a manner so as to minimize the likelihood of taking spotted sea trout as incidental catch to other fishing activities.

THEREFORE, I move that the Commission authorize and direct the Secretary to close the commercial fishery on Spotted Sea Trout, as required by the state legislature, on the date that the National Marine Fisheries landings data, from 1985 through 1988 can project that the quota will be met. The contemplated closing date will be calculated and available to the Secretary no later than May 4, 1988.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(b), the Administrative Procedures Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons and R.S. 56:325.3, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries pursuant to a resolution passed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on April 29, 1988 in New Orleans, Louisiana does:

1. Hereby declare the spotted seatrout commercial fishery closed until midnight, August 31, 1988, effective at midnight May 6, 1988.
2. Prohibit the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of spotted seatrout taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure.
3. Hereby declare that all commercial dealers possessing spotted seatrout taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R.S. 56:306.4, with said closure remaining in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.



Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Johnnie Tarver reported on the Marsh Island Alligator Harvest Program (AHP). He stated that in 1921 the State of Louisiana officially accepted Marsh Island as a refuge and with that agreed to a Deed of Donation severely restricting use. The original deed has been amended several times over the years. In the 1940's, an amendment was jointly agreed to by the LDWF and Russell Sage Foundation to permit orderly exploration and development of mineral resources on the Island in an environmentally sound manner. In 1973, the Deed was again amended to allow for a trust fund to be set up at \$5 million. That trust was subsequently filled and in 1987 through Act 849, Title 56:798 was again amended to set a \$10 million trust fund. In January 1988, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Foundation and the State of Louisiana to accompany the statute. Those changes in the Memorandum of Understanding and the Act mainly dealt with changes in accounting procedures. The Foundation is very active in all activities on the Island.

To comply with other stipulations, we were asked to make public certain activities on the Island. There has been an on-going research program that deals with the alligator harvest program. The Commission members received the 1987 results of this program and the 1988 proposal. The Russell Sage Foundation remains very active in programs on the Refuge. Noel Kinler reviewed the data from 1987 and the 1988 proposal.

Chairman Palmisano then requested comments from the 200 plus attendees at the April 29, 1988 Commission meeting. No comments were offered.

RESOLUTION RATIFICATION OF RULE CREATING OUTSIDE AREA ATCHAFALAYA-VERMILLION BAY
OYSTER SEED GROUND

ADOPTED BY THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION ON APRIL 29, 1988, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

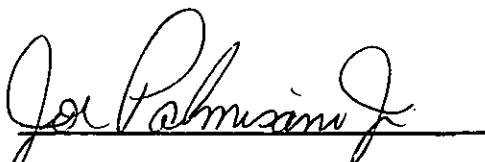
WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a Notice of Intent to designate an area in the state's territorial waters south of the Atchafalaya, Vermillion Bay complex, as a public oyster seed area subsequent to R.S. 56:434, AND

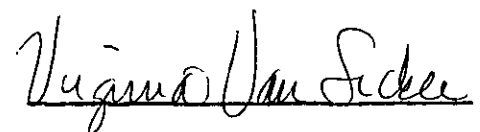
WHEREAS, the Notice of Intent and Rule have completed the procedure described in the Administrative Procedures Act,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the Rule designating the below described area as the OUTSIDE AREA ATCHAFALAYA-VERMILLION BAY OYSTER SEED GROUND

Description

Beginning at a point known as South Point on the Southeast portion of Marsh Island (y-298,750.40) (x-1, 863, 189.50), thence S 74° 10' 18" E 52785.6 feet to a platform (y-284,352.82) (x-1, 913, 973.65), thence S 68° 18' 41" E 75, 154.9 feet to Eugene Island (y-256, 578.31) (x-1, 983, 808.02), thence S 35° 17' 41" E 17,453.6 feet to Point Au Fer (y-242, 332.84) (x-1,993,892.44), thence south 35° 00' W approximately 3 miles to the Louisiana State Territorial Limitation, thence westerly along the State Territorial Limitation to a point south of Marsh Island, thence north approximately 3 miles to a point on Marsh Island (y-295, 200.0) (x-1, 845,950.0), thence easterly along the Shoreline of Marsh Island to South Point being the point of beginning.


Joe Palminsano, Jr.
Chairman


Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(b), the Administrative Procedures Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons and R.S. 56:325.3, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries pursuant to a resolution passed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on April 29, 1988 in New Orleans, Louisiana does:

1. Hereby declare the spotted seatrout commercial fishery closed until midnight, August 31, 1988, effective at midnight May 6, 1988.
2. Prohibit the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of spotted seatrout taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure.
3. Hereby declare that all commercial dealers possessing spotted seatrout taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R.S. 56:306.4, with said closure remaining in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.



Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

RESOLUTION

COMMERICAL HARVEST OF RED DRUM
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

WHEREAS R.S.56:325.4 established an annual quota for the commerical harvest of red drum in Louisiana waters at 1.7 million pounds, and

WHEREAS at the September 3, 1987 Commission meeting the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for red drum to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS R.S.56:325.4 mandates a closure of commerical fishery upon the quota having been reached, and

WHEREAS on or about January 15, 1988 the quota of red drum was reached. Effective that date this Commission closed the commercial harvest of red drum, and

WHEREAS Unforeseen delays in the rulemaking process now necessitate the adoption of a further emergency closure in order to accomplish the mandates of R.S.56:325.4 and the intent of the Commission.

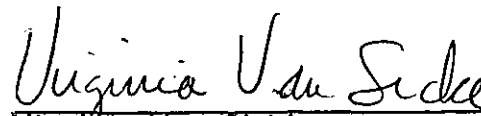
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission, by emergency declaration pursuant to R.S.49:967, hereby declares the red drum commerical fishery closed until midnight, August 31, 1988, effective at midnight May 14, 1988.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commerical harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of red drum taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure is prohibited.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all commerical dealers possessing red drum taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R.S.56:306.4. Said closure shall remain in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.



Joe Palmisano, Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission



Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION APRIL 28, 1988,
IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(b), the Administrative Procedures Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:325.4, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does:

1. Hereby declare the red drum commercial fishery closed until midnight, August 31, 1988, effective at midnight May 14, 1988.
2. Prohibit the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of red drum taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure.
3. Hereby declare that all commercial dealers possessing red drum taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R.S. 56:306.4, with said closure remaining in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.

Joe Palmisano, Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Resolution

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
University of New Orleans Campus
April 29, 1988

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish annual hunting season dates, bag limits and methods of hunting for resident game, and

WHEREAS, this action provides for the protection and conservation of these important natural resources and allows for recreational opportunities including sport hunting, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department have jointly reviewed and considered all available biological information including requests from interested citizens of the state, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent in the form of rule rules, regulations, season dates and bag limits affecting resident game in Louisiana for 1988-89 is approved unanimously by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Joe Palmisano, Chairman

Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary

RESOLUTION

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, the LDWF recognizes bird dog field trials as a legitimate public use of WMAs; and,

WHEREAS, the LDWF has always taken the lead in the development of sound wildlife management practices on its lands; and,

WHEREAS, no negative responses were received following publication of the Notice of Intent concerning the suggested changes to the Administrative Code entitled "Field Trials on Wildlife Management Areas", which were published in the December Louisiana Register.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission ratify the regulation changes to Louisiana Administrative Code 76:V.103 (Field Trials on Wildlife Management Areas) and the pen-reared bobwhite health certification procedure which were adopted at the 5 November 1987 meeting in Baton Rouge.

RULE

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission ratified changes to the Louisiana Administrative Code 76:V.103 which governs Field Trials on Wildlife Management Areas and a pen-reared bobwhite health certification procedure at its 29 April 1988 meeting in New Orleans. The original codes were promulgated in accordance with R. S. 56:141 in December 1976, LR2:459. The new codes omit unnecessary regulation, liberalize the season framework, and state more clearly procedural responsibilities required by the LDWF of bird dog clubs utilizing a WMA for a field trial. The entire set of amended codes and the pen-reared bobwhite health certification procedures are attached.

103. Field Trials on Wildlife Management Areas

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize field trials by recognized bird dog associations to be held on selected wildlife management areas but only under the following conditions:

A. The season framework for conducting field trials involving the use of bird dogs is from October 1 through March 30 of each year. Specific season dates, however, will be set annually, management area by management area.

B. No trial will be allowed during managed deer hunts or opening weekends of other deer gun seasons.

C. No shooting of wild bobwhites will be allowed during the closed quail season.

D. Pen-reared bobwhites can not be used for field trial purposes without first obtaining health certification as prescribed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Failure of bobwhites to pass the certification will result in the postponement (cancellation) of the field trial.

E. Applications must be submitted well in advance (a period established by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission) by field trial associations specifying the date and precise location for the proposed field trial.

F. Only two (2) trials per field trial organization will be allowed each season.

G. Applications will be approved only after the field trial association has met these conditions.

H. All bobwhites released for field trial purposes must be banded with a numbered band furnished by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. A list of the band numbers of birds released and birds recovered as well as any unused bands must be returned to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries within 2 weeks after a field trial is held.

I. All pen-reared bobwhites can be inspected by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel for evidence of diseases before they are released on the wildlife management areas for field trial purposes. Evidence of diseased birds can result in the cancellation of the field trial.

J. Applications received for the Fort Polk Wildlife Management Area must be approved by the U.S. Army.

Pen-reared Bobwhite Health Certification Procedures

The Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (LVMDL) will perform health evaluations on the sample of live pen-reared bobwhites. A 5 percent sample, not to be less than 5 birds, must be delivered (shipped or otherwise) live with the completed Batch Case History Form to the LVMDL on Monday mornings by 9 o'clock at least 5 but not more than 10 working days prior to the field trial. Testing requires 5 working days.

Items tested for include but are not limited to:

- Avian Pox
- Capillaria
- Coccidia
- Cryptosporidia
- Ectoparasites
- Heterakis spp.
- Histomoniasis
- Mycoplasma gallisepticum
- Pullorum
- Typhoid

Any positive tests (except non-pathogenic ectoparasites) will result in the rejection of the use of that batch of birds. No trial utilizing pen-reared bobwhites can be conducted without health certification. Failure of samples to pass certification will result in the postponement (cancellation) of a trial.

The fee for the diagnostic tests is \$27.00 per 5 birds (\$5.40@) and is payable to the LVMDL in advance.

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
P. O. Box 16570-A
Baton Rouge, LA 70893
504/346-3193

Location:

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
School of Veterinary Medicine
LSU Campus
Baton Rouge
Corner of South Stadium Road and River Road

NOTICE OF INTENT
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Pursuant to the authority granted under Louisiana Revised Statute, Title 56, Section 673, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertise its intent to enter into a reciprocal agreement with the State of Texas to establish uniform creel limits and minimum length limits for black bass and uniform creel limits for crappie on the waters of Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake. The reciprocal agreement shall establish a 12 inch minimum size and a 10 fish daily creel limit for black bass along with a 50 fish daily creel limit for crappie. It is also the intent of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to cooperate with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in a joint research project designed to collect information on the fish population in Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to the following address: Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr., Chief, Inland Fisheries Division; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; P. O. Box 15570; Baton Rouge, LA 70895.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, through the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, is authorized to enter into a reciprocal agreement with the State of Texas to establish sport fishing creel limits for Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake under the authority of Louisiana Revised Statute Title 56:673, and,

WHEREAS, the State of Texas, through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission is authorized to establish sport fishing creel limits for Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake, and,

WHEREAS, the States of Louisiana and Texas intend to enter into such an agreement so that uniform regulations are established for Toledo Bend Reservoir, and Caddo Lake,

NOW, THEREFORE, each state acting herein by and through duly authorized officials mutually agree that on both Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake:

- 1) Effective September 1, 1988, the creel limit for black bass (to include both the largemouth bass and spotted bass) shall be 10 per day, with a minimum size of 12 inches total length and the creel limit for crappie shall be 50 per day.
- 2) Either state may withdraw from this agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice by either party.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BY: _____
Secretary

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

BY: _____
Executive Director

TITLE 56

§673. Reciprocal agreement; common boundaries; taking or protection of fish or other aquatic life

The commission may enter into reciprocal agreements with the states of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas pertaining to seasons, creel limits, and all other rules and regulations pertaining to the taking or protection of any species of fish or other aquatic life in any bodies of water which form the common boundary between Louisiana and the reciprocating state. Any reciprocal agreement shall become effective when ratified in writing both by the commission and the authorities of the reciprocating state and shall remain in effect until ninety days after it has been rescinded in writing by either the commission or the authorities of the reciprocating state.

Added by Acts 1968, No. 239, §1. Amended by Acts 1984, No. 843, §1.

2:45

APR 6 1988
dm

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE**

Person
Preparing
Statement: John E. Roussel Dept: Wildlife and Fisheries

Phone: (504) 765-2337 Office: Wildlife

Return
Address: LA Dept. of Wildlife Rule
and Fisheries Title: Toledo Bend and Caddo
P. O. Box 15570 Lake Reciprocal Agreement
Baton Rouge, LA 70895 Date Rule
Takes Effect: September 1, 1988

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. The following summary statements, based on the attached worksheets, will be published in the Louisiana Register with the proposed agency rule.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule will have no implementation costs. Enforcement of the proposed rule will be carried out using the existing staff.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)


The proposed rule will have no impact on revenue collections of state or local governmental units.

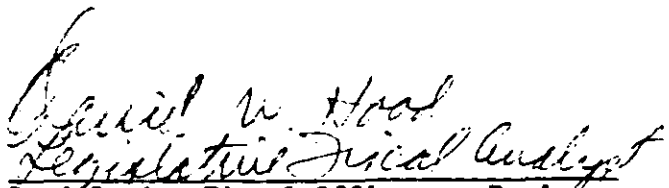
III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule will have no costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons or non-governmental groups.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule will have no impact on competition and employment in the public and private sectors.


Signature of Agency Head or Designee
Bennie J. Fontenot,
Inland Fisheries Division Administrator
Typed Name and Title of Agency Head
or Designee


Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee
April 8, 1988
Date of Signature

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberations on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption, or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

The proposed rule establishes uniform creel limits and minimum length limits for black bass and uniform creel limits for crappie on the waters of Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake.

- B. Summarize the circumstances which require this action. If the action is required by federal regulations, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake are jointly managed by both Louisiana and Texas. Currently, the black bass and crappie regulations are not uniform on both the Louisiana and Texas side of these lakes. The lack of consistent regulations hinders enforcement and creates a hardship on the fishermen who use the lake.

- C. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session

- (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

The proposed rule will not result in an increase in the expenditure of funds.

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

- (a) _____ Yes. If yes, attach documentation.
(b) _____ No. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

WORKSHEET

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in cost to implement the proposed action?

COSTS	FY 88-89	FY 89-90	FY 90-91
PERSONAL SERVICES			
OPERATING EXPENSES			
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
OTHER CHARGES			
EQUIPMENT			
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-

MAJOR REPAIR & CONSTR.

POSITIONS(#)

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "I.A.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

No costs or savings are anticipated to implement the proposed action. Enforcement of the proposed rule will be carried out using the existing staff.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

SOURCE	FY 88-89	FY 89-90	FY 90-91
STATE GENERAL FUND			
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED (Specify)			
DEDICATED (Specify)			
FEDERAL FUNDS (Specify)			
OTHER (Specify)			
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

No funds will be required.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

The proposed rule will have no impact on local governmental units.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit which will be affected by these costs or savings.

There will be no impact on the sources of funding of local governmental units.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

WORKSHEET

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

<u>REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE</u>	<u>FY 88-89</u>	<u>FY 89-90</u>	<u>FY 90-91</u>
STATE GENERAL FUND			
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED (Specify)			
RESTRICTED FUNDS (Specify)			
FEDERAL FUNDS (Specify)			
LOCAL FUNDS			
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "II.A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

There will be no increase or decrease in revenues as a result of the proposed action.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

WORKSHEET

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

- A. What persons or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effects on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

Non-governmental groups will not be affected by the proposed action.

- B. Also provide an estimate of any revenue impact resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

The proposed rule will have no revenue impact on these groups.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

The proposed rule will have no impact on competition and employment in the public and private sectors.



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
DISTRICT VIII
400 ROYAL ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

April 4, 1988

COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES
SURVEY SECTION
03 - 04
ACTIVITY REPORT

From February 29th thru April 1st

During this period field activity consisted of:

136	Surveys that were scheduled.
68	Surveys that were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.

Surveys that were completed consisted of:

26	Leases that were tied into the monument control system.
10	Applications for new area.
27	15-year limitations.
0	Restake applications.

Total field activity:

1985	1986	1987	
316	318	406	- Surveys scheduled.
165	160	172	- Surveys performed.
146	158	229	- Surveys unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.
0	0	0	- Survey where fishermen refused to survey.
0	0	0	- Disputes settled.
4	0	5	- No shows.
1	0	1	- Applications cancelled by request.

Office activity during this period:

34,156.04	- Lease rental collected.
1,721.75	- Survey fees collected.
13	- Applications filed.
16	- New leases issued.
10	- Surveys - Private Surveyor
20	- Surveys - Private Surveyor, 1988



SUMMARY

The Delinquent Oyster Lease Auction was held at 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana at 0900 A. M. 29 March 1988. Sixty-Five leases were auctioned. Of these Leases, 53 Leases containing 1911 acres were sold for \$12027.00 dollars for an average of \$6.29 an acre. Twelve Leases were cancelled and will become available for future leasing.



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
DISTRICT VIII
400 ROYAL ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

April 25, 1988

**COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES
SURVEY SECTION
03 - 04
ACTIVITY REPORT**

From April 2nd thru April 24th

During this period field activity consisted of:

82 Surveys that were scheduled.
29 Surveys that were unable to be done due to bad weather
or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.

Surveys that were completed consisted of:

32 Leases that were tied into the monument control system.
9 Applications for new area.
10 15-year limitations.
0 Restake applications.

Total field activity:

<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	
<u>480</u>	<u>442</u>	<u>488</u>	- Surveys scheduled.
<u>314</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>223</u>	- Surveys performed.
<u>160</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>258</u>	- Surveys unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	- Survey where fishermen refused to survey.
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	- Disputes settled.
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	- No shows.
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	- Applications cancelled by request.

Office activity during this period:

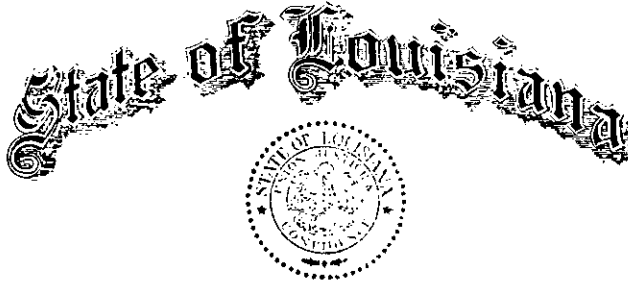
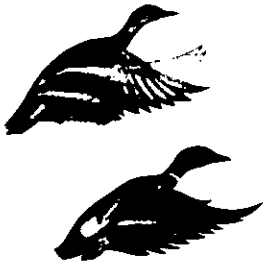
9285.65 - Lease rental collected.
951.50 - Survey fees collected.
0 - Applications filed.
12 - New leases issued.
12 - Surveys - Private Surveyor
32 - Surveys - Private Surveyor, 1988



	<u>CONFIRMATION</u> <u>NUMBER</u>
PUCKETT, DON	16565
MCINNIS, KELL	16563
BAKER, BETTSIE	16564
PERRET, CORKY	15426
VINET, DALE	13590
FONTENOT, BENNY	13595
BOWMAN, PHIL	13594
SHELDON, BOB	13598
POL, WARREN	13603
JENKINS, JAMES	13602
HERRING, JOE	13593
VANSICKLE, VIRGINIA	13592
BATEMAN, BUTCH	13596
TARVER, JOHNNY	13597
PALMISANO, JOE	13605
CAPPEL, JACK	13600
HINES, DONALD	13601
TRIST, NICK	CANCELLED (# 102902)

Paula,
 This is the rooming
 list for the Shrimp meeting
 DOA: 4-28-88 DOD: 4-28-88

Thanks,
 JNOR



Virginia Van Sickle
SECRETARY
15041 925-3617

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

Buddy Roemer
GOVERNOR

April 4, 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assistant Secretary and Division Chiefs
FROM: Paula Callais
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 28-29, 1988
New Orleans

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to me any agenda items your division may have for the meeting in New Orleans to be held at the University Center, LSUNO, New Orleans.

Thank you!

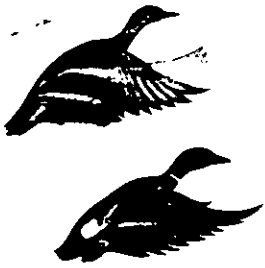
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cc: Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker

Paula:

4/5/88

- 1-) Oyster Survey Report
- 2-) Seismic Report
- 3-) Status of Speckled Trout Harvest
- 4-) Setting of Inshore Shrimp Season



State of Louisiana



Virginia Van Sickle
SECRETARY
(504) 925-3617

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

Buddy Roemer
GOVERNOR

April 4, 1988

MEMORANDUM

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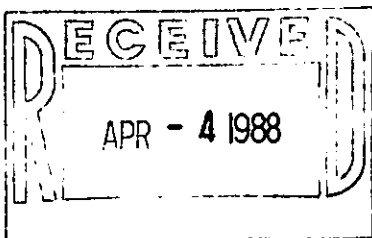
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cc: Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker

State of the Region from Regs. Major of

Reg 4 - 5 - 6.

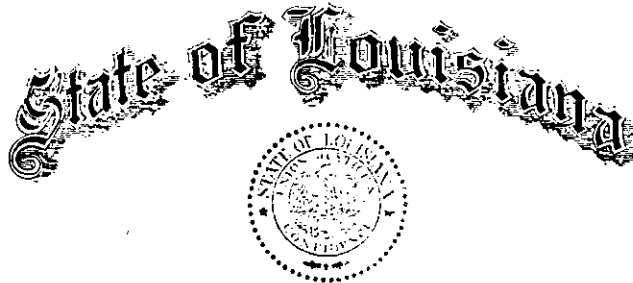
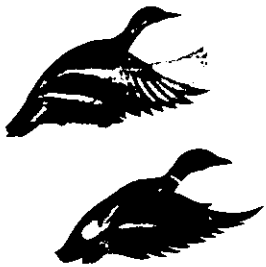
also answer to Mr. Jenkins Motion.



Jenkins motion- Lafayette, La.

For the enforcement division to draw up two plans:

- 1 - To design proper enforcement, within present resources, utilizing necessary equipment and personnel across the state with regard to area of need as the primary criteria.
- 2- Same as above with all necessary resources available if the commission elects to reallocate department funds.



Virginia Van Sickle
SECRETARY
(504) 925-3617

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

Buddy Roemer
GOVERNOR

April 4, 1988

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Assistant Secretary and Division Chiefs
FROM: Paula Callais *PC*
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 28-29, 1988
New Orleans

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to me any agenda items your division may have for the meeting in New Orleans to be held at the University Center, LSUNO, New Orleans.

Thank you!

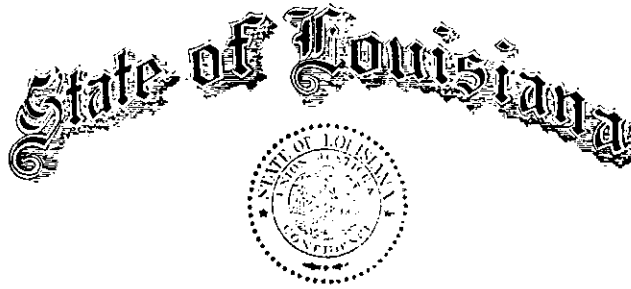
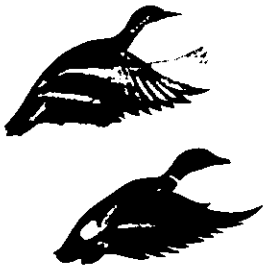
pc

cc: Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker

Discussion of Marsh Island Alligator Harvest Program.

RECEIVED
LA. DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
MAR 3 1 88
FUR & REFUGE
BATON ROUGE

Returned to PC 4/4/88



Virginia Van Sickle
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Thank you!

pc

cc: Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker

- 1) Present Notice of Intent on Resident Game Hunting Seasons 1988-89.
- 2) Regulatory Rule Change pertaining to field trials on WMS.

**1988 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator
Harvest Proposal**

by

**Noel Kinler
Dave Taylor
Greg Linscombe**

2 March 1988

1988 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator
Harvest Proposal

INTRODUCTION

During the Summer of 1987 an experimental harvest of alligators was conducted on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge. A total of 2,930 alligators were harvested in 1986 followed by a harvest of 1,262 in 1987. Although data analysis is ongoing, Kinler et al. (1988) reported on the results of this 1987 harvest. An active alligator research program is currently being conducted on Marsh Island. Research projects include night counts and aerial nest counts to estimate populations, tagging for growth rate data, and an alligator ageing study. This proposal details the objectives and procedures for the upcoming 1988 experimental harvest.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To collect reproductive data to determine the proportion of adult-sized females (≥ 6 feet) nesting annually. Also to determine reproductive rates as related to marsh management units on Marsh Island (weired marsh, natural marsh and impoundment).
- 2) To evaluate an alternate time of annual harvest with the intent of changing the sex ratio in the

harvest as compared to fall harvest. Also to evaluate size-class ratios in summer harvested alligators.

- 3) To evaluate the accuracy of a calculated optimum harvest rate.
- 4) To collect femurs from selected alligators to evaluate age structure of the population.

PROCEDURES

Harvest Quotas

Data collected from the 1987 experimental harvest was used to calculate a harvest quota for the 1988 harvest (Fig. 1). Due to the skewed size class frequency distribution in the 1986 harvest (Kinler et al. 1987) and to the different, but more representative production rate calculated from the 1986 and 1987 data (Taylor et al. submitted for publication in 1988) the harvest quota for 1988 has been reduced from 1987. The base quota for 1988, to be taken by the fishing method, is 1,026 alligators.

Selection of Hunters

A total of 18 hunters and 5 alternates will be selected for the experimental harvest. Each hunter will harvest approximately 57 alligators. Preference will be given to the individuals with previous trapping and/or alligator hunting

experience on Marsh Island. Other hunters will be selected by screening applications (Fig. 2), using the criteria listed below, and then drawing names.

- 1) Previous trapping and/or alligator hunting experience on Marsh Island Refuge.
- 2) Previous alligator hunting experience in Louisiana.
- 3) Ownership of essential equipment for alligator hunting on Marsh Island. Due to the location and topography of Marsh Island Refuge each hunter will need two boats.
 - a) Minimum 18' hull to cross the open water of Vermilion Bay on a daily basis.
 - b) A smaller boat (small flat, mudboat, etc.) to hunt the interior bayous and ponds.
- 4) Each applicant will be required to report to the refuge each morning until his quota is filled (no exceptions allowed).
- 5) Ability to follow specific instructions issued by Department personnel.
- 6) Ability to maintain required records.
- 7) All applicants will be checked for past wildlife violations. Any applicant possessing a wildlife violation in the past 5 years will be rejected.

All hunters will be required to sign and abide by an alligator hunting contract (Fig. 3).

Unit Assignments

Hunters will be assigned to specific units on Marsh Island (Fig 4). Assignment of hunting units will be done by a drawing. Hunting units will be distributed throughout the refuge so that hunting success, reproductive rates and size-class data can be evaluated by habitat types.

Harvest Date

The 1988 experimental harvest will begin on July 11. The hunt will continue on a daily basis until the quota is completed or until specified by Department officials. Assessment of economic feasibility for the Department, the purchaser, and the hunter will also be considered.

Harvest Methods

The base quota of 1,026 alligators will be harvested by the baited hook and line (fishing) method. The daily harvest quota for each hunter will be regulated as needed.

Sale of Alligators

The method by which these alligator will be sold (i.e. whether they are sold as whole alligators or as hides) is currently being determined. The cost of both boat and truck transportation and the impact of this cost on projected bids is being assessed.

Data Collection

All alligators will be brought to the refuge headquarters and loaded onto the transport boat. The following data will be collected:

- 1) Alligator hide tag numbers
- 2) Length (feet and inches)
- 3) Sex
- 4) Location where the alligator is captured
- 5) Obvious mutilations (i.e., cuts, bobtails, missing legs) will be recorded.

Fur & Refuge Division personnel will analyze reproductive tracts for reproductive condition and collect selected femurs immediately after the alligators are skinned. After completion of the 1988 harvest, data will be entered into a computer for analysis.

LITERATURE CITED

KINLER, N., D. TAYLOR, AND G. LINScombe. 1988.

Experimental alligator harvest program on Marsh Island Refuge. Mimeograph Report. 26 pp.

TAYLOR, D., N. KINLER, G. LINScombe. 1988.

Management implications of a female alligator reproductive study. (Submitted for publication in 1988).

Figure 1. Data and calculations necessary to establish the harvest quota for the 1988 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.

CALCULATIONS FOR 1988 QUOTA

<u>Data</u>	<u>Source of Data</u>
25.4% nesting rate (1987)	July 1987 Marsh Island data
688 nests (1987)	1987 aerial nest survey
Size class frequency distribution of females	1986 and 1987 M.I. Data
Size class frequency distribution in Marsh Island harvest	1987 Marsh Island harvest data

The 1988 harvest quota is based upon the average nest density and the associated number of adult size females within the population.

Calculations

1. If 25.4% of ≥ 6 feet females produced 688 nests;
then $688 \div .254 = 2,709$ total females ≥ 6 feet
in length.
2. $2,709 \times 20\%$ harvest rate on ≥ 6 feet females =
542 tags for ≥ 6 feet females (Taylor and Neal 1984)
3. If $\geq 6'$ females = 35.4% of harvest (1987 data) then:
 $542 \div .354 = 1,530$ total tags.
4. $1,530 - 33\%$ (reduction for potential errors in data) = 1,026
harvest quota.

**Figure 2. Hunter application form to be used for the 1988
Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.**

ALLIGATOR HUNTING APPLICATION
MARSH ISLAND EXPERIMENTAL HARVEST
1988

Applications must be in by _____ (no exceptions)

NAME: _____ PHONE: Home _____ Office _____
STREET: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

Please provide the following information on your previous alligator hunting experiences.

YEAR: 1987

Landowner (Name): _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Number of tags issued _____ Number of tags used _____

Please provide the same information on additional landowners on reverse side.

YEAR: 1986

Landowner (Name): _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Number of tags issued _____ Number of tags used _____

YEAR: 1985

Landowner (Name): _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Number of tags issued _____ Number of tags used _____

Please provide the following information on the boats you own and plan to use for harvesting alligators.

Category I: Minimum size 18' for open waters of Vermilion Bay.

Boat Registration Numbers: LA _____

Expiration Date: _____ Length _____ Width _____

Horsepower _____ Type of Engine _____

Category II: Smaller boat (flat boat, mud boat, etc.) for hunting interior ponds and bayous.

Boat Registration Numbers: LA _____

Expiration Date: _____ Length _____ Width _____

Horsepower _____ Type of Engine _____

Are you self-employed (check one) YES _____ No _____

If not self-employed provide the following information:

Employer: _____
Name Address

Immediate Supervisor _____
Name Telephone

I certify that the information I have provided in this application is true. I understand that falsification of this information may cause my application to be rejected, my name removed from the eligible register and/or subject me to immediate dismissal from this project.

Signature of Applicant Date

RETURN APPLICATION TO: Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Fur & Refuge Division
Rt. 4, Box 78, Darnell Road
New Iberia, LA 70560

Figure 3. Contract between the La. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and the hunters participating in the 1987 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program (will be altered as necessary for 1988).

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

CONTRACT FOR ALLIGATOR HUNTING ON MARSH ISLAND (1987)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street or Box No. City or Town, Zip

I hereby agree to follow all the rules and regulations pertaining to Marsh Island Refuge and to alligator hunting.

Specifically I further understand that:

- 1) No commercial fishing activity such as crab traps, trot lines, gill nets, or bush lines can be utilized on Marsh Island. Only sport fishing is allowed. No trawling is allowed within the boundaries of Marsh Island.
- 2) A single firearm may be carried on to Marsh Island only after clearance and registration with Departmental personnel. You may have the firearm in your possession only when you are checking your lines. Otherwise the firearms must remain at your camp, houseboat or shrimp boat. The firearm can be utilized only to kill alligators. No other type of wildlife (including blackbirds and grackles) are to be harmed in any way.
- 3) No nighttime activities will be allowed on Marsh Island unless specified by Departmental personnel. You may leave your camp or enter the refuge at sunrise and you must return to your camp or leave the refuge by sunset.
- 4) No littering of any kind will be allowed. You are responsible for proper disposal of all garbage and trash from your camp, houseboat or shrimp boat.
- 5) Fifty percent (50%) of the revenues derived from the sale of the whole alligators will go to the selected hunters and fifty percent (50%) will go to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- 6) Selected hunters will provide all of the equipment necessary for harvesting his quota of alligators. Lack of proper equipment or continued failure of equipment will be grounds for termination.
- 7) Each selected hunter will have to report to Marsh Island each morning (at daylight) until his monthly quota of tags is filled. Each selected hunter may have only one licensed helper present at any one time, however this does not alleviate the responsibility of the selected hunter for being present on a daily basis.
- 8) Unless otherwise specified each hunter must take alligators only from his designated unit. Unit assignments will be determined by a drawing. Each hunter must proceed to his designated unit at daylight, remove alligators from the lines and return immediately to the headquarters facility. Each hunter must keep alligators cool by covering. Departmental personnel will specify a specific time by which all alligators must be delivered to the headquarters facility.
- 9) Unless otherwise specified all alligators will be taken by the hook and line fishing technique. All alligators that are caught on the lines shall be taken. You must set lines so as to minimize the capture of alligators less than 4 feet long. However, no alligators may be cut loose from hooks and lines for purposes of selecting larger alligators. The number of lines to be set will be regulated by Departmental personnel. Adjustment will be made as necessary, however each hunter shall have a quota of 5 alligators per day unless otherwise specified.
- 10) No type of wild birds or animals may be used for bait. You must supply your own bait and it should be of some type of domestic animal (beef meat, tallow or lung or poultry parts) or a commercial fish species.
- 11) Alligators must be tagged upon taking. Before you proceed to your next line, the alligator tag must be in place and fully locked.
- 12) Violation of any of these agreements by you or by your licensed helper will be grounds for cancellation of your alligator hunting privileges, revocation of all alligator tags and immediate removal from the area.
- 13) This contract becomes effective July 1, 1987, and terminates at project completion.

I have read the above and understand that by signing below I agree to the above terms.

 Alligator hunter Signature

 Alligator helper Signature

APPROVED: _____
 La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

 Date

Figure 4. Map of Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge with the designated hunting units for the 1987 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program (will be altered as necessary for 1988).

[illegible]

Stream
Canal
Lanes
Park
Land Area

Figure 1: A schematic diagram of a horizontal beam of length $2L$, pivoted at its center. A weight W is suspended from the left end, and a weight W' is suspended from the right end. The beam is shown in a horizontal position, with the pivot point labeled "Pivot" and the weights labeled " W " and " W' ". The distances from the pivot to the weights are labeled " L " and " L " respectively.



**1987 Experimental Alligator Harvest Program on
Marsh Island Refuge**

by

**Noel Kinler
Dave Taylor
Greg Linscombe**

2 March 1988

1987 Experimental Alligator Harvest Program on
Marsh Island Refuge

INTRODUCTION

Louisiana began an active alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) research program in 1958. After closing the statewide alligator season in 1962, a limited harvest of alligators began in 1972 (Joanen & McNease 1975a). The open area was gradually expanded with a harvest in 12 parishes during 1979 and 1980 and a statewide harvest beginning 1981 (Joanen et al. 1984).

Since 1958 considerable research has been done on wild alligators in Louisiana. Initial research was conducted on or near Rockefeller Refuge, Cameron Parish, La. Chabreck (1963) examined methods for capturing, handling and marking alligators. Chabreck (1965), Joanen and McNease (1970, 1972a), McNease & Joanen (1974), Taylor et al. (1976), and Taylor (1984) studied movement and home ranges of alligators in marsh and upland lake habitat. Food habits of alligators have been examined by Chabreck (1971), McNease and Joanen (1977), Taylor (1986), Sloan (submitted for publ. in 1987). Reproductive activity and population estimations, distribution, and dynamics of alligator populations have been reported by Chabreck (1966, 1967) Joanen (1969), Joanen and McNease (1972b, 1974, 1975b, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981),

Joanen et al. (1977), McNease and Joanen (1978), Taylor (1980, 1984), Taylor and Neal (1984), and Taylor et al. (submitted for publ. in 1987).

Research on the alligator population on Marsh Island began in 1981. Initially, night counts of alligators were conducted to determine:

- 1) the relative density of adult-size alligators (adults per mile), and
- 2) the size-class frequency distribution (SCFD) of alligators within this population which had not been harvested for approximately 25 years.

The majority of these surveys were conducted in Bird Island Bayou and the Impoundment canal. During 1983 an additional 30 miles of bayous were surveyed. None of the surveys indicated a SCFD differing from hundreds of other surveys conducted throughout the state. Therefore, these data indicated a population of alligators that was no different from those currently being harvested elsewhere in Louisiana. The relative densities of adult sitings on Marsh Island has remained higher than in most areas of the State but the degree of visibility is far greater in an open water canal or bayou habitat as opposed to fresh marsh, swamp or cypress lake habitat where dense vegetation is a limiting factor in seeing alligators at night.

Additionally, an adult female alligator reproductive study began March 24, 1985 and continued through February,

1986. Each month, female alligators were collected and their reproductive tracts removed and later analyzed to determine their reproductive status. The results of this research was used to calculate production rates and harvest quotas for the 1986 harvest. During the 1986 harvest a total of 2,930 alligators were taken (57% males, 43% females). A total of 1,076 adult-size females were harvested and a nesting rate of 21.6% was calculated. By combining nest count data and this production rate, an annual nesting rate of 29.8% was calculated. The data obtained from the 1986 harvest was used to calculate the harvest quota used during 1987.

Coastal alligator population estimates in Louisiana are determined using aerial nest counts and a conversion factor based on the proportion of adult-sized (≥ 6 feet) females nesting (Joanen et al. 1984). Previous population estimates and subsequent harvest quotas have been based on an estimated 63% production rate (Joanen and McNease 1980). As noted by Taylor et al. (submitted for publ. in 1987) this rate was based on a sample of 24 sexually mature females (≥ 6 feet), which was not representative of the true production in that population. Therefore it was felt that additional research was needed to better estimate the proportion of adult-sized females nesting annually.

The population of alligators on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge provided an ideal location for this research. The study was initiated to provide data to better estimate

statewide alligator populations and to calculate optimum harvest rates. Specific objectives of the study were:

- 1) To collect reproductive data to determine the proportion of adult-sized females (≥ 6 feet) nesting annually. Also to determine reproductive rates as related to marsh management units on Marsh Island (weired marsh, natural marsh and impoundment).
- 2) To evaluate an alternate time of annual harvest with the intent of changing the sex ratio in the harvest. Also to evaluate size-class ratios in summer harvested alligators.
- 3) To evaluate the accuracy of a calculated optimum harvest rate.
- 4) To evaluate the logistics of handling and selling whole alligators so that the entire alligator (hide and meat) could be utilized.
- 5) To collect femurs from adult-sized females and extremely large male alligators to evaluate age at sexual maturity in females and overall age structure of males.
- 6) To evaluate an alternate harvest methodology for 4 feet and 5 feet alligators.

In order to accomplish the objectives, a summertime experimental harvest of alligators was conducted on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge during 1987.

STUDY AREA

Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge was donated by the Russell Sage Foundation to the State of Louisiana in 1920. The basic management objectives are:

- 1) To maintain and improve Marsh Island as wintering waterfowl habitat.
- 2) To manage the population density of furbearers and alligators in order to prevent damage to habitat or to other species of wildlife.

Historical management practices on Marsh Island included controlled harvest of furbearers and alligators since the conception of the Refuge. Historically, the Louisiana Dept. of Wildl. & Fish. has received royalties varying from 25 to 35% of the monies generated from sales of hides and pelts. Between 1940 and 1954, 1.6 million muskrats, 6,288 mink, 8,508 raccoons, 333 otters and 29,818 nutrias were harvested on Marsh Island. The sales of these pelts generated \$705,679 for the Department (Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission 1956). Alligators have also been harvested on Marsh Island since the State of Louisiana has taken control of the Refuge. Records from Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biennial Reports demonstrate that the Department has received royalties from the sale of alligator hides taken from Marsh Island. Due to the incompleteness of these records, we can not document the actual number of alligators

that have been harvested from Marsh Island Refuge. The season was closed on the Refuge during the 1950's.

Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge is located at the center of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. The refuge is bordered on the north by Vermilion Bay, on the west by Southwest Pass, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, and on the east by West Cote Blanche Bay (Fig. 1). The island consists of 67,129 acres of brackish marsh habitat. A total of 15,424 acres is currently under the influence of fixed crest weirs, while 43,801 acres is natural brackish marsh. Two fresh water impoundments represent a total of 7,904 acres. The extreme northwest portion of the island is classified as salt marsh and comprises approximately 4% of the island.

The dominant species of vegetation in the weired and unweired habitat types is wiregrass (Spartina patens) and three-cornered grass (Scirpus olneyi). The impoundment contains wiregrass and salt grass (Distichlis spicata). The man-made and natural levees are dominated by hogcane (Spartina cynosuroides), baccharis (Baccharis halmifolia), feathergrass (Panicum virgatum), tallow tree (Sapium sebiferum) and roseau cane (Phragmites communis). The salt marsh area is dominated by black rush (Juncus roemerianus).

Tides in the Gulf of Mexico are predominantly diurnal with an average range of approximately 1.5 feet. Salinities in the Marsh Island-Vermilion Bay complex range from lows of 0-5 ppt in the spring to highs of 7-15 ppt in the fall.

Salinities are affected dramatically by local rainfall and fresh water discharge from the Atchafalaya River and Wax Lake Outlet.

METHODS

Marsh Island was selected as the study area due to its substantial population of alligators and its relative isolation from surrounding habitat. Additionally, total control of this Department owned and managed area was essential to collect the data necessary to fulfill the desired objectives. Complete control was required in placement of hunters, daily collection of field data, centralization of check-in for length, weight, sexing and collection of reproductive tracts and femurs, and sale of whole alligators. This control could only be accomplished by conducting the study on Department owned property.

Timing of harvest

The experimental harvest was planned to harvest alligators in July. The function of this design was to provide accurate data on the reproductive performance of adult females and to assess the sex ratio and size-class distribution during a summer harvest of alligators.

Harvest Quota

The data and calculations necessary to generate a

harvest quota for the Marsh Island experimental harvest are listed in Figure 2. A harvest quota of 1,500 alligators was calculated. These alligators were harvested by the baited hook and line (fishing) method.

Nichols et al. (1976) and Taylor and Neal (1984) demonstrated that the 4 feet and 5 feet size classes are not harvested in proportion to their existence in the populations during the standard fall harvest seasons in Louisiana. Taylor and Neal (1984) stated that a selective harvest (by employing a size-specific tag allocation system) could result in a 540% increase in the harvest without increasing the harvest of 7 feet males. An additional allotment of 500 tags was issued in an attempt to selectively harvest 4 feet and 5 feet alligators. These alligators were harvested by shooting free swimming animals. Hunter success and their ability to judge alligator lengths was evaluated.

Hunter Selection

Based on the size of Marsh Island, the desired time to complete the harvest, and the projected base quota of 1,500 alligators; a total of 18 hunters and 5 alternates were selected to participate in the harvest. Selections were based upon the following criteria:

- 1) Previous trapping experience on Marsh Island
Refuge.

- 2) Previous alligator hunting experience in Louisiana.
- 3) Ownership of essential equipment for alligator hunting on Marsh Island. Due to the location and topography of Marsh Island Refuge each hunter would need two boats.
 - a) Minimum 18' hull to cross the open water of Vermilion Bay on a daily basis.
 - b) A smaller boat (small flat, mudboat, etc.) to hunt the interior bayous and ponds.
- 4) Each applicant was required to report to the refuge each morning until his monthly quota was filled (No exceptions allowed).
- 5) Ability to follow specific instructions issued by Departmental personnel.
- 6) Ability to maintain required records.
- 7) All applicants were checked for past wildlife violations. Any applicant possessing a wildlife violation in the past 5 years was rejected.

Approximately 80 individuals applied to participate in the alligator harvest (Fig. 3). Nine of the individuals were selected because they were fur trappers that had recently participated in the Marsh Island Fur Program. The remaining 9 hunters and 5 alternates were chosen by an official drawing. All hunters were required to abide by a written contract (Fig. 4).

Harvest Units

Marsh Island was divided into 18 harvest units (Fig. 1). The units were designed to distribute the harvest over the entire 28,326 ha (69,964 acres) study area. In order to facilitate data analysis, unit boundaries were drawn so that the majority of the hunters would be harvesting alligators in only one habitat type (i.e., unveired brackish marsh, veired brackish marsh, or impoundment). For each harvest segment, a drawing was conducted to assign each hunter a specific unit. This allowed each hunter to have an equal chance of receiving either a "good" (i.e., near the check-in point) or "bad" unit. If a hunter could not fill his quota from within a particular unit, he was assigned to another unit for that harvest segment.

Sale of Whole Alligators

Historically, the harvest of alligators in Louisiana resulted in the sale of hides and very little commercial utilization of the meat. Since the season was expanded in 1979, regulated commercial use of the alligator meat has been expanding. During the 1986 statewide season, approximately 250,000 pounds of deboned meat was sold for an estimated 1.125 million dollars. Due to the remoteness of certain areas of Louisiana's coastal marshlands, a substantial part of the alligator meat resource is wasted because hunters simply can not logistically meet the regulations of the

Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources. However, if these hunters could arrange to sell whole carcasses to a processing facility this part of the meat resource could be utilized. During this experimental harvest we sought complete utilization of the alligator by selling the whole carcass. During the first week of April, 1987, advertisements to solicit sealed bids for the sale of whole alligators were placed in all newspapers in coastal Louisiana and mailed to all licensed fur-dealers, fur buyers, and alligators parts dealers. On 6 May 1987, bids were opened and awarded to the highest bidder (Domangue Fur House, Houma, Louisiana). Subsequently, a contract to purchase approximately 1,500 alligators at \$30.20 per linear foot was executed (Fig. 5). Fifty percent of the value of each alligator went to the hunter and the remaining 50% went to the Dept. of Wildl. and Fish. - Marsh Island Fund. This division of revenues was based on the extensive involvement of Departmental personnel in managing the hunt and collecting of data and the fact that hunters were involved only in harvesting and not in the processing of the alligators.

The buyer was required to provide a boat large enough to refrigerate and transport a minimum of 100 alligators per day. Alligators were loaded on the boat from 8:00 a.m. to midday each day, then transported to Cypremort Point, loaded into a refrigerated truck and delivered to the processing plant in Houma, La.

Data Collection

In order to facilitate data collection and the sale of whole animals, the hunters were required to take all alligators to the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge headquarters facility. The alligators were hoisted onto the deck of a shrimp boat and the following data were collected:

- 1) Alligator hide tag numbers
- 2) Length (feet and inches)
- 3) Weight (pounds)
- 4) Sex
- 5) Location where the alligator was caught
- 6) All adult size females [≥ 1.83 m (6 feet)] were web tagged and the head was painted to identify for necropsy.
- 7) All large males were marked to identify for femur removal.
- 8) Obvious mutilations (i.e., cuts, bobtails, missing legs) were recorded.

Data were recorded on an official receipt form (used for all financial transactions between the buyer and both the hunter and the Department) (Fig. 6). This document was signed each day by the hunter, a Department representative and a buyer representative. On each day the hunter was provided a new map of his unit which was utilized to mark the exact location where each alligator was taken. Specific instructions were

given, on a daily basis, to each hunter concerning the number of lines to set for the following day. This was also recorded.

After each alligator was processed, it was placed in the hold of the boat for cooling. The alligators were then transported to Houma for processing. Fur & Refuge Division personnel were stationed at the processing plant to collect reproductive tracts and femurs from all webbed tagged alligators. These items were placed in plastic bags, labeled and stored in freezers. Reproductive tracts were examined at the New Iberia office for classification of reproductive status (i.e., immature, producer, quiescent, or barren). Femurs were stored for later sectioning and age determination.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Method of Take

Between July 6 and August 6, 1987, a total of 1,262 alligators were harvested. A total of 1,008 animals were taken with baited hook and line while 254 alligators were shot free swimming. Adult-sized alligators (≥ 6 feet) comprised 43% of the harvest and 53% of those caught by the fishing method.

Hunter Success

Of the 1,500 tags issued for the experimental harvest, 67.2% were utilized. The catch rate during the 1987 harvest averaged 5%, as compared to a catch rate of 7% during July 1986. A significantly higher percentage of the tags would have been filled if the harvest would have been extended for a longer period of time. After 23 days of hunting, the experimental harvest was discontinued because it was not economically feasible to operate the shrimp boat and the refrigerated trucks being used for transporting the alligators to the processing plant. As this experimental harvest progressed, difficulty was encountered in maintaining the selected hunters' interest in this harvest program. On an average basis, each individual hunter collected approximately \$267.00 each day they participated in the harvest (23 days). For some reason the hunters did not assess their income from this hunt on an average daily basis. As time progressed and the alligators became more difficult to catch, the hunters disregarded the monies that they collected during the early part of this harvest and assumed that since they had not made a sufficient quantity of money within the previous day or two that they were then losing money by staying any additional period of time. This attitude also contributed to an early closure of this experimental harvest.

Size Class Frequency Distribution (SCFD)

The SCFD by sex of all alligators harvested is listed in Table 1. Table 2 lists the SCFD for the alligators harvested by the fishing method. The largest alligator harvested was 13 feet 1/2 inch long. Of the males in the harvest 32% were adult-sized animals while 68% of the females were of adult size (Table 3).

Sex Ratios

Males comprised 53% of the total harvest while females comprised 47%. Within the adult size classes 32% were males and 68% were females. This sex ratio differs significantly from the sex ratio of fall harvested alligators (78% males, 22% females). The impact of this higher harvest rate on the adult female segment of the population will be closely monitored by collecting data on SCFD of the harvest, intensive aerial nest counts and production rates in subsequent years. Within the immature size classes, 69% were males and 31% were females.

Production Rates

A total of 370 adult-sized (≥ 6 feet) female alligators were dissected to determine reproductive status. These reproductive data along with the 1986 data, represent by far the largest sample size of adult-size female alligators ever taken anywhere in the world. Reproductive rates (proportion

of adult-sized females nesting) were calculated. Since the 1987 sample of reproductive tracts was taken after all nesting attempts had been completed, it constitutes the most accurate reproductive data (Table 4). The reproductive tracts examined in July indicated conclusively that 25.4% of the adult-sized female alligators collected had nested. Since the 1986 and 1987 data contain a representative sample of 1,435 adult size females and these data indicate a SCFD in which 60% of the adult-sized females occupy the > 7' size classes therefore, this SCFD will be used to calculate the 1988 harvest quota.

Aerial nest surveys were conducted annually throughout Louisiana's coastal marsh including Marsh Island (Joanen et al. 1984). Intensive aerial nest counts have been conducted on Marsh Island since 1984. Average nest densities for the 3 year period of 1984 to 1986 were 1 nest/33 acres in weired brackish marsh, 1 nest/89 acres in natural brackish marsh, and 1 nest/92 acres in the impoundment. Based upon extrapolation from nests counted to total nests present, an average number of nests per year was calculated for a 5-year period (1982-1986). When the average number of nests per year (1,036) was compared with the calculated nesting effort for 1987 (688 nests), a factor of 1.5 was obtained. The determined nesting rate for 1987 of 25.4% multiplied by the factor of 1.5 leads to a calculated 38.2% annual nesting rate for all of the \geq 6 feet females within that population.

Sex ratio data, size-class data, proportion of adult females nesting annually and nest count data will be analyzed individually and collectively to determine an optimum annual harvest rate for the alligator population on Marsh Island.

Age Analysis

Femurs (long bones of the rear legs) were collected from all adult-sized female alligators as well as from selected males. These femurs were sectioned, their annuli counted and ages assigned to each animal. Average ages for each size class were determined and presented in Table 5. Of major importance is the combined analysis of age and reproductive data which will provide a better understanding of the adult female segment of the population and allow for a more accurate calculation of reproductive rates.

Special Harvest (4 feet) and (5 feet)

A total of 254 alligators was harvested by shooting. The sex ratio was 70% males and 30% females. Immature alligators comprised 92.6% of this harvest. Overall, 719 immature alligators were taken during this experimental harvest. Shooting accounted for 32.8%. The harvest rate was approximately 1 alligator per 4.1 hours of hunter effort. During this harvest, hunters shot at a total of 303 alligators and harvested 254 of these. Data collected indicated an initial 10% crippling lost and 13% missed shots.

On several occasions crippled alligators were recovered the following day and subsequently sold.

Selling of Whole Alligators

During this experimental harvest we sought complete utilization of the alligators by selling the whole carcass. In short, the entire program was logistically feasible and successful. Meat yield was estimated at approximately 22,000 pounds of deboned alligator meat and this entire quantity of meat was sold by Fall 1987. A total of 7,320 feet of leather was produced from 1,262 alligators. Due to the success of this program, a minimum of 4,000 alligators were purchased whole during the statewide harvest in 1987 and processed for utilization of both meat and hides. Depending on the creation of international meat markets, this trend may escalate in future years.

This experimental harvest has generated an extremely large quantity of data. Analysis of sex ratios, production rates and SCFD is ongoing. Subsequent annual harvest programs and annual intensive nest count surveys on Marsh Island will continue to contribute to a data base of information that will be utilized to make management decisions for Marsh Island and for Louisiana. The data collected on Marsh Island will have far reaching alligator management implications and represents one of the greatest steps forward in the management of this commercially

important natural resource.

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Table 1. Size-class frequency distribution by sex of all alligators harvested on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge in 1986.

Size-Class	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2'	1		1	2 "unk"	4	
3'	70	74%	52	38%	122	57%
4'	333		103		436	
5'	90		67		157	
6'	62	26%	156	62%	218	43%
7'	32		157		189	
8'	20		54		74	
9'	14		3		17	
10'	27				27	
11'	17				17	
12'	1				1	
13'	1				1	
Total	668	53%	593	47%	1,263	

Table 2. Size-class frequency distribution by sex of alligators harvested by baited hook and line (fishing) method on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge in 1987.

Size-Class	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2'	1	66%	1	31%	2	48%
3'	36		24		60	
4'	220		72		292	
5'	66		63		129	
6'	58	34%	150	69%	208	52%
7'	30		153		183	
8'	20		51		71	
9'	14		3		17	
10'	27	34%			27	52%
11'	17				17	
12'	1				1	
13'	1				1	
Total	491	49%	517	51%	1,008	

Table 3. Size class frequency distribution (as harvested) by sex of alligators $\geq 6'$ harvested from Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge 1987.

Size Class	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
6'	62	35.6	156	42.2	218	40.1
7'	32	18.4	157	42.5	189	34.7
8'	20	11.5	54	14.6	74	13.6
9'	14	8.0	3	0.8	17	3.1
10'	27	15.5			27	5.0
11'	17	9.8			17	3.1
12'	1	0.6			1	0.2
13'	1	0.6			1	0.2
Total	174	32.0%	370	68.0	544	

Table 4. Number and reproductive status (post nesting) of adult size female alligators harvested on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge by size-class in 1987.

Size-Class	Immature %		Nested %		Mature-did not Nest %		Total %	
6'	72	48.65	20	13.51	56	37.84	148	40.0
7'	7	4.27	51	31.10	106	64.63	164	44.5
≥ 8'			23	39.66	36	62.07	58	15.5
Totals	79	21.4%	94	25.4%	198	53.5%	370	

Table 5. Size-age relationship by sex for Marsh Island alligators harvested in 1987.

Size Class	<u>Average Age (years)</u>	
	Females	Males
4	--	4.9
5	6.1	6.1
6	8.7	7.8
7	10.9	9.7
8	15.5	--
9	20.8	12.8
10	--	16.0
11	--	18.6
12	--	21.8

Figure 1. Map of Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge with the designated hunting units.

Figure 2. Data and calculations necessary to establish the harvest quota for the 1987 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.

CALCULATIONS FOR 1987 QUOTA

<u>Data</u>	<u>Source of Data</u>
21.6% nesting rate (1986)	July 1986 Marsh Island data
850 nests (1986)	1986 aerial nest survey and potential nesting females harvested in April and May 1986
56M:44F sex ratio	1986 Marsh Island data
Size class frequency distribution by sex	Taylor and Neal, 1984
Size class frequency distribution in Marsh Island harvest	1986 Marsh Island harvest rate

During the 1986 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest, adult-sized alligators were not harvested in proportion to their existence in the population (as calculated from past Louisiana harvest statistics and night count data) (Kinler et al. 1987). Therefore the 1987 harvest quota is based on estimated number of 2.13 m (7 feet) males instead of the total estimated number of 1.83 m (6 feet) alligators (both sexes).

Calculations

- 1) If 21.6% of ≥ 1.83 m (6 feet) females produced 850 nests; then $850 \div .216 = 3,935$ total females ≥ 1.83 m (6 feet)
- 2) If 56M:44F = adult sex ratio; then 5,009 = number of males ≥ 1.83 m (6 feet)
- 3) $5,009 + 3,935 = 8,944$ total alligators ≥ 1.83 m (6 feet)
- 4) $(5,009) \times (.60) = 3,000$ ≥ 2.13 m (7 feet) males (Taylor and Neal 1984)
- 5) $3,000 \times 18\%$ harvest rate on ≥ 2.13 m (7 feet) males = 540 tags for ≥ 2.13 m (7 feet) males (Taylor and Neal 1984)
- 6) If 60M:40F = sex ratio for > 2.13 m (7 feet) class (Taylor and Neal 1984); then $540 \div .60 = 900$ = Total tags for ≥ 2.13 m (7 feet) class
- 7) If ≥ 2.13 m (7 feet) class = 40% of total harvest (Taylor and Neal, 1984) then $900 \div .40 = 2,250$ maximum harvest quota (by the fishing method).
- 8) $2,250 - 33\%$ (reduction for potential errors in data) = 1,500 harvest quota.

**Figure 3. Hunter application form utilized for the 1987
Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.**

ALLIGATOR HUNTING APPLICATION
MARSH ISLAND EXPERIMENTAL HARVEST
1987

Applications must be in by May 8 , 1987 (no exceptions)

NAME: _____ PHONE: Home _____ Office _____
STREET: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

Please provide the following information on your previous alligator hunting experiences.

YEAR: 1986

Landowner (Name): _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Number of tags issued _____ Number of tags used _____

Please provide the same information on additional landowners on reverse side.

YEAR: 1985

Landowner (Name): _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Number of tags issued _____ Number of tags used _____

YEAR: 1984

Landowner (Name): _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Number of tags issued _____ Number of tags used _____

Please provide the following information on the boats you own and plan to use for harvesting alligators.

Category I: Minimum size 18' for open waters of Vermilion Bay.

Boat Registration Numbers: LA _____

Expiration Date: _____ Length _____ Width _____

Horsepower _____ Type of Engine _____

Category II: Smaller boat (flat boat, mud boat, etc.) for hunting interior ponds and bayous.

Boat Registration Numbers: LA _____

Expiration Date: _____ Length _____ Width _____

Horsepower _____ Type of Engine _____

Are you self-employed (check one) YES _____ No _____

If not self-employed provide the following information:

Employer: _____
Name Address

Immediate Supervisor _____
Name Telephone

I certify that the information I have provided in this application is true. I understand that falsification of this information may cause my application to be rejected, my name removed from the eligible register and/or subject me to immediate dismissal from this project.

Signature of Applicant Date

RETURN APPLICATION TO: Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Fur and Refuge Division
Rt. 4, Box 78, Darnell Road
New Iberia, LA 70560

Figure 4. Contract between the La. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and the hunters participating in the 1987 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

CONTRACT FOR ALLIGATOR HUNTING ON MARSH ISLAND (1987)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street or Box No. City or Town, Zip

I hereby agree to follow all the rules and regulations pertaining to Marsh Island Refuge and to alligator hunting.

Specifically I further understand that:

- 1) No commercial fishing activity such as crab traps, trot lines, gill nets, or bush lines can be utilized on Marsh Island. Only sport fishing is allowed. No trawling is allowed within the boundaries of Marsh Island.
- 2) A single firearm may be carried on to Marsh Island only after clearance and registration with Departmental personnel. You may have the firearm in your possession only when you are checking your lines. Otherwise the firearms must remain at your camp, houseboat or shrimp boat. The firearm can be utilized only to kill alligators. No other type of wildlife (including blackbirds and grackles) are to be harmed in any way.
- 3) No nighttime activities will be allowed on Marsh Island unless specified by Departmental personnel. You may leave your camp or enter the refuge at sunrise and you must return to your camp or leave the refuge by sunset.
- 4) No littering of any kind will be allowed. You are responsible for proper disposal of all garbage and trash from your camp, houseboat or shrimp boat.
- 5) Fifty percent (50%) of the revenues derived from the sale of the whole alligators will go to the selected hunters and fifty percent (50%) will go to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- 6) Selected hunters will provide all of the equipment necessary for harvesting his quota of alligators. Lack of proper equipment or continued failure of equipment will be grounds for termination.
- 7) Each selected hunter will have to report to Marsh Island each morning (at daylight) until his monthly quota of tags is filled. Each selected hunter may have only one licensed helper present at any one time, however this does not alleviate the responsibility of the selected hunter for being present on a daily basis.
- 8) Unless otherwise specified each hunter must take alligators only from his designated unit. Unit assignments will be determined by a drawing. Each hunter must proceed to his designated unit at daylight, remove alligators from the lines and return immediately to the headquarters facility. Each hunter must keep alligators cool by covering. Departmental personnel will specify a specific time by which all alligators must be delivered to the headquarters facility.
- 9) Unless otherwise specified all alligators will be taken by the hook and line fishing technique. All alligators that are caught on the lines shall be taken. You must set lines so as to minimize the capture of alligators less than 4 feet long. However, no alligators may be cut loose from hooks and lines for purposes of selecting larger alligators. The number of lines to be set will be regulated by Departmental personnel. Adjustment will be made as necessary, however each hunter shall have a quota of 5 alligators per day unless otherwise specified.
- 10) No type of wild birds or animals may be used for bait. You must supply your own bait and it should be of some type of domestic animal (beef melt, tallow or lung or poultry parts) or a commercial fish species.
- 11) Alligators must be tagged upon taking. Before you proceed to your next line, the alligator tag must be in place and fully locked.
- 12) Violation of any of these agreements by you or by your licensed helper will be grounds for cancellation of your alligator hunting privileges, revocation of all alligator tags and immediate removal from the area.
- 13) This contract becomes effective July 1, 1987, and terminates at project completion.

I have read the above and understand that by signing below I agree to the above terms.

Alligator Hunter Signature

Alligator Helper Signature

APPROVED:

La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Date

Figure 5. Contract between the La. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and Domangue Fur House Inc. for the purchase of alligators harvested in the 1987 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF _____

CONTRACT

Be it known, that on this _____ day of _____, 1987, the LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "DEPARTMENT") and DOMANGUE FUR HOUSE, INC. (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "CONTRACTOR") do hereby enter into contract under the following terms and conditions:

Contractor hereby agrees to furnish the following services:

1.

Contractor shall comply with all Louisiana State Health Department laws and regulations governing the sale of alligator meat and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the purchase of approximately 2000 alligators beginning on July 6, 1987 from the Marsh Island experimental alligator harvest at a price of \$30.20 per foot (measured to nearest inch for whole alligator).

2.

Contractor shall pick up alligators each day by boat at the Marsh Island Refuge Headquarters facility located on Bird Island Bayou, approximately six miles south of Cypremort Point, St. Mary Parish or at any other location designated by State during the term of this contract.

3.

Contractor will provide a boat to transport alligators from Marsh Island Refuge which must have the following capabilities: 1) an automatic winch system and a derrick system capable of hoisting very large alligators from the hunter's boat onto the deck and into the refrigerated storage room of the transport boat. The winch system will also be used to weigh the alligators, 2) an open deck area approximately 20' x 30' to process the alligators, 3) storage capacity to refrigerate a minimum of 100, 7 to 8 feet alligators, 4) a crew on the boat consisting of a minimum of two or three people capable of handling large alligators, and 5) the boat must be docked at the headquarters facility by 7:30 a.m. each day the hunt is in progress.

4.

Contractor will allow State personnel to measure, sex, weigh and web tag alligators at time of pick up.

5.

Contractor agrees that the above length measurement will be the official length used for calculating payment pursuant to this contract.

6.

Contractor will immediately ice and/or refrigerate alligators upon pick up and maintain the alligator in a refrigerated container until reaching the processing facility.

7.

Contractor shall make all necessary arrangements for docking and loading facilities at Cypremort Point.

8.

Contractor shall provide all personnel necessary to expeditiously move the alligators from the boat to a refrigerated truck.

9.

Contractor shall daily provide a refrigerated truck capable of cooling and transporting a minimum of 100 alligators from Cypremort Point to the processing facility.

10.

Contractor hereby agrees to provide enough personnel to expeditiously skin and process at least 100 alligators per day. Contractor agrees to provide additional personnel for processing if requested by the Department.

11.

Contractor shall pay one-half of total value payable to each alligator hunter at 5 day intervals and one-half the total value payable to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at 2 week intervals with the final payment occurring no later than 1 week after completion of the harvest.

12.

Contractor hereby agrees to cooperate with State personnel in allowing the sampling of leg bones, reproductive tracts and other alligator parts at a time immediately after skinning.

13.

Upon completion of this contract, or if terminated earlier, all records, reports, worksheets or any other materials related to this contract shall become the property of the Department.

14.

It is hereby agreed that the Department Auditor shall have the option of auditing all accounts of contractor which relate to this contract.

15.

Contractor hereby agrees and understands that failure to comply with any of the above terms and conditions of this contract may result in termination of this contract by the Department.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the day, month and year first written above.

WITNESSES

Noel W Kilar
Archie D. Domangue

CONTRACTOR:

DOMANGUE FUR HOUSE, INC.

BY: Richard J. Domangue
Richard J. Domangue

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND
FISHERIES

BY: _____

J. Burton Angelle
Secretary

Figure 6. Official invoice form utilized for the 1987
Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.



P. O. Box 15570
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

OFFICIAL RECEIPT

RECEIPT NO. 0504

DATE _____

HUNTER'S NAME _____

License No. _____

Unit No. _____

PURCHASED BY:

Domangue Fur House, Inc.
4361 Bayou Black Drive
Houma, LA 70360
(504) 872-0729

1987 MARSH ISLAND EXPERIMENTAL ALLIGATOR HARVEST

HIDE TAG NO.	FISHED/SHOT	LENGTH Ft. / In.	WEIGHT	SEX	WEB TAG	REMARKS
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.						
12.						
13.						
14.						
15.						
16.						
17.						
18.						
19.						
20.						

Payment Rate \$30.20/ft. X Total Feet _____ = \$ _____

Payment Rate \$2.517/in. X Total Inches _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL VALUE \$ _____

Amount to be paid to hunter (50% of total value) \$ _____

Amount to be paid to Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (50% of total value) \$ _____

SIGNED: _____
Hunter

Domangue Fur House, Inc.

① - ⑥

COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF SPOTTED SEA TROUT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

① WHEREAS R.S. 56:325.3 established a quota for the commercial harvest of spotted sea trout in Louisiana waters at 1 million⁺ and

② WHEREAS on September 3, 1987 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for spotted sea trout to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS THE National Marine Fisheries Service has reported there have been 744,060 pounds of spotted sea trout taken in Louisiana waters from September 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, and

WHEREAS the Department staff projects that 1,000,000 pounds of spotted sea trout will be taken on or before June 30, 1988, and

③ WHEREAS this Commission is authorized to close finfish seasons using the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary to close the commercial spotted trout fishery in accordance with R.S. 56:325.3 and R.S. 49:967; provided however that in no event shall the closure become effective later than June 30, 1988.

④ BE IT ~~FURTHER~~ RESOLVED, that the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of red drum taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure is prohibited.

⑤ BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after the closure all spotted sea trout taken as incidental catch must be returned to the water with a minimum of harm or stress to the fish. Fishermen are hereby urged to fish in such a manner so as to minimize the likelihood of taking spotted sea trout as incidental catch to other fishing activities.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING APRIL 28, 1988, IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

Joe Palmisano, Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary

RESOLUTION

**COMMERICAL HARVEST OF RED DRUM
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

WHEREAS R.S.56:325.4 established an annual quota for the commerical harvest of red drum in Louisiana waters at 1.7 million pounds, and

WHEREAS at the September 3, 1987 Commission meeting the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for red drum to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS R.S.56:325.4 mandates a closure of commerical fishery upon the quota having been reached, and

WHEREAS on or about January 15, 1988 the quota of red drum was reached. Effective that date this Commission closed the commercial harvest of red drum, and

WHEREAS Unforeseen delays in the rulemaking process now necessitate the adoption of a further emergency closure in order to accomplish the mandates of R.S.56:325.4 and the intent of the Commission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission, by emergency declaration pursuant to R.S.49:967, hereby declares the red drum commerical fishery closed until midnight, August 31, 1988, effective at midnight May 14, 1988.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commerical harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of red drum taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure is prohibited.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all commerical dealers possessing red drum taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R.S.56:306.4. Said closure shall remain in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.

Joe Palmisano, Jr., Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION APRIL 28, 1988,
IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

⑥ Therefore, I move that the Commission authorize & direct the Secretary to close the commercial fishery on Spotted Sea Trout, as required by the state legislature, on the date that the National Marine Fisheries landings data, from 1985 through 1988, can project that the quota will be met. The contemplated closing date will be calculated & available the the Secretary no later than May 4, 1988.

①-⑥



Virginia Van Sickle
SECRETARY
(504) 925-3617

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

Buddy Roemer
GOVERNOR

April 4, 1988

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Assistant Secretary and Division Chiefs
FROM: Paula Callais *PC*
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 28-29, 1988
New Orleans

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to me any agenda items your division may have for the meeting in New Orleans to be held at the University Center, LSUNO, New Orleans.

Thank you!

pc

cc: Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker

Virginia Vnn Sickie

Buddy Roemer

April 7, 1988

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: Virginia Van Sickie
SUBJECT: April Board Meeting

The next regular public board meeting as set by the Commission will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 28, 1988 at the University Center, LSSNNO.

On Friday, April 29th, the meeting will be continued at the same location at 10:00 AM. Please let me know if you have any agenda items that you would like to add prior to April 20, 1988.

1. Approval of Minutes of March 4, 1988

BENNIE FONTENOT

2. Toledo Bend & Caddo Lake Reciprocal Agreement

HUGH BATEMANI

3. Notice of Intent for Resident Game Hunting Seasons 1988-89
4. Ratify Rule Change Pertaining to Field Trials on WMAs.

JOHNNIE TARVER

5. Discussion of Marsh Island Alligator Harvest Program

KELL MCINNIS

6. Additional Shrimp Season Enforcement

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RAY MONTET

7. Law Enforcement Report
8. State of the Region Reports from Region IV, V & VE
9. Plan for Enforcement Division (Jenkins' motion)

CORKY PERRET

10. Oyster Survey Report
11. Seismic Report
12. Discussion of Commercial Speckled Trout Harvest
13. Closure of Commercial Speckled Trout Harvest
14. Setting of Inshore Shrimp Season

DON PUCKETT

15. Discussion of Shelledredging and Proposed Bid Framework

OTHER BUSINESS

16. Set May Meeting Date (May 19-20, 1988 Baton Rouge)

VVS/pc

cc: Joe L. Herring
Don Puckett
Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker
Bill Ouellette
Mary Mitchell
Division Chiefs